Families below Poverty Line in Karala

880. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The percentage of families living in Kerala, below the poverty line during 1997, 1998 and 1999, year-wise and what are the limits of poverty line;

(b) the effect of various schemes started at different points for the upliftment of people living below the poverty line; and

(c) the result of each scheme introduced, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUAN SHOURIE) (a) The Planning Commission estimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last such survey was conducted in 1993-94. The next large survey on consumer expenditure is being conducted during the period July, 1999 to June, 2000. As such the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1997, 1998 and 1999 are not available. As per the latest estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line, based on the consumer expenditure survey data of 50th Round of NSSO, 25.43 per cent of the population in Kerala lived below the poverty line in 1993-94. The poverty line in Kerala is expressed as monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 243.84 in rural areas and Rs. 280.54 in urban areas in 1993-94.

(b) The increase in income of the people living below the poverty line occurs from the joint impact of general growth process and direct income generation of the poor arising from various anti-poverty programmes introduced from time to time by the Government for their upliftment. Since the Sixth Five Year Plan

(1980-85), the Government has been implementing employment and asset generation schemes for the upliftment of the people living below the poverty line. These schemes are mainly of two types, self-employment and wage employment Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) has been the major self-employment programme and it has been in operation in all the blocks of the country since 1980. The wage emplopyment programme initially was National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) during the Sixth Plan period. In the Seventh Plan, another wage employment programme under the name Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) was introduced.Then in 1989, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) was launched by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Labour Employment Guarantee Programme, and it became the main wage-employment programme. In addition, several programmes to help the poor were also in operation until March, 1999. These programmes are Million Wells Scheme (MWS), Employment Assurance Scheme (FAS), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), Supply of improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA).

From 1st April, 1999, IRDP and allied programmes along with Million Wells Scheme have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swaranajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation, capitalising advantages of group lending, and overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has also been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. Employment Assurance Scheme has also been strengthened from 1st April, 1999 as single wage employment programme. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

From 1.12.1997, Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

is the main poverty alleviation programme in the urban areas. The SJSRY, which has subsumed all the earlier three urban poverty alleviation programmes, viz. Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUPEP), seeks to provide gainful employment to unemployed or underemployed urban and educated up to IX standard for setting up self employment ventures or provision of wage employment. The implementation of SJSRY is relying on suitable community structures on the UBSP pattern and delivery of inputs under this programme is through the medium of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and such community structure.

It is not possible to isolate the impact of each of these factors on the income generation of the poor, and hence on the percentage of people living below the poverty line. However, as a result of the joint impact of these two factors, there has been a continuous reduction in the percentage of people living below the poverty line in Kerala since 1997-78 as can be see from the table below.

Percentage of Poor in Total Population in Kerala

1977-78	52.22%
1983	40.42%
1987-88	31.79%
1993-94	25.43%

(c) Since the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure are not available at district level, it is not possible to assess the impact of these schemes on the incidence of poverty at district level.